WILSON

Group of Buildings For the Chautauqua National Assembly

Graduate School
M. Arch.
1904

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GROUP OF BUILDINGS

FOR THE CHAUTAUQUA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

BY

JOSEPH WADE WILSON, B. S., 1903.

THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

IN THE

GRADUATE SCHOOL

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

1904

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THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY

JOSEPH WADE WILSON

ENTITLED GROUP OF BUILDINGS FOR THE CHAUTAUQUA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE

OF Master of Architecture.

N. Clifford Ricker.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture

The drawings referred to in connection herewith are deposited in the Department of Architecture where they are properly framed for preservation.

J. J. Burrill
Dean of Graduate School.

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Buildings for the Chautauqua National Assembly.

The Chautauqua National Assembly meets every summer at Chautauqua, N. Y., a beautiful little town overlooking the Lake. The institution has built a number of buildings about the town at different times for its own uses, but they are scattered about in a haphazard way and are inadequate for the needs of the institution.

The problem undertaken was not only to design all necessary buildings for the future needs of the assembly, but to group them for convenience and the best use of the natural beauties of the place. The buildings are as follows:

1. An assembly hall with a seating capacity of four thousand. It is circular, domed, amply lighted by windows and sky lights and specially studied as to stairways and exits. There are five openings in the main facade, one on each side and two in the rear.

The stage is large enough to seat a chorus of two hundred. The building is the central feature of the entire group and stands on a promontory facing the lake. Broad terraces and flights of steps lead down to the shore drive.

2. To the right of the assembly building is the administration building, having the offices and archives of the administration.

3. On the left is the library of the institution, planned to serve as a town library as well.

4. Directly in the rear of the assembly building is the college building planned for class room and laboratory work.

5. On the right of the college building is a memorial hall for lectures and services.

6. On the other side is a Hall of philosophy, an open air hall for lectures and to serve as a shelter. It is classic in style. A Greek Doric temple without cella walls.

7. In front of the administration building is the hotel, with ample accommodation for guests and provided with cafe and lunch counters. The grounds are terraced out over the side walks giving a good view over the lake and providing an arcade along the side walk with space behind for little shops similar to those which are often one of the features of European resorts.

8. The boat house is on a point out in the lake in front of the other buildings. The first floor contains waiting rooms, baggage rooms and ticket offices opening out on the dock. The second floor is a pavillion for recreation, music and confectionary. The covered carriage entrance is carried up as a light-house tower.

9. The city post office is located to the left of the library and is intended to be a part of the group.

10. In front of and to the left of the assembly building is a pergola, band stand, clock and bell tower combined in one feature. This is intended to be one of the principal architectural features of the group. The pergola, lawns and terraces provide ample space for the pedestrians listening to the concerts, while the drives are arranged to allow the carriages to drive about the building and the immediate vicinity.

The buildings occupy the middle portion of the town and face out towards the lake, from which the most important ones can be seen.

The assembly building is about fifty feet above the water level and occupies the most prominent part of the hill.

The library, administration building, college building, and halls are on the same level, but further back. The other buildings are nearer the shore and lower down.

The buildings are given ample room to allow space for trees, terraces, and lawns and to give each building a natural setting. The average distance between buildings is about one hundred yards.

The drawings consist of a general perspective in color at one thirty second inch scale on a sheet of Whatman's paper, antiquarian size 31 x 53 and a general plan on a similar sheet at one sixty fourth inch scale.

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